

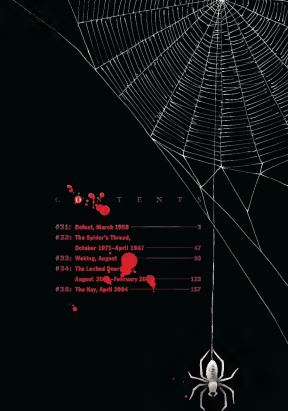


erased

KEI SANBE

6





C O N T E N T S

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#31: Defeat, March 1988





WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN..



...IT
ISN'T
YOUR
GARY?

SATORU.



END

...KEEPS
GETTING
UPDATED
AGAIN AND
AGAIN?

DON'T YOU
THINK YOUR
"HAPPIEST
MOMENT"...



EH...?

MY
LATEST...

... "HAPPIEST
MOMENT"
HAPPENED
TODAY.







DRIVE, SHIPBOARD, FLOOD



MIGATO
ISN'T
IN THAT
TRUCK.







silence (short) sound of rain (left) background





THAT'S
WHEN I
BEGAN TO
SUSPECT IT
WAS MORE
THAN
COINCIDENCE.



THAT
WAS THE
SECOND
TIME YOU
INTERFERED
WITH MY
PLANS.

SATORU.

IT
CAN'T
BE.



...AND THEN
I MENTIONED
IT TO KAITO.

IT
CAN'T
BE.

I KNEW
KAITO'S
FRIENDS WERE
OBTAINING
HER, SO I
ENCOURAGED
HER TO GO TO
THE MOORE
GAMES...

SATORU.

I KNEW IF
YOU CAME, MY
SUSPICIONS
WOULD BE
CONFIRMED.

IT
CAN'T
BE.

IT
ISN'T
TRUE.

NO
WAY.

IT
CAN'T
BE...

...ARE MY
ENEMY.

THAT
YOU...

IT
CAN'T
BE.



HA
HA!

WHEN
DID IT
BEGIN...?

YOU
ASTON-
ISHED
ME.

THAT...
WAS A COIN-
CIDE-
NCE. WASN'T
IT?

...IT FELT
LIKE THE
WHEELS
HAD
FALLEN
OFF.

YOU MADE
ME A LITTLE
NERVOUS
USING THE
JILIM
ELEMENTARY
BUS.

YOUR
RECENT
RELATIONS
WITH OTHER
PEOPLE...

IT WAS
LIKE YOU
WERE
ANOTHER
PERSON.

...I
DESTROYED
THE
EVIDENCE.

WELL,
THE
NEXT
DAY...

WHEN I
HEARD
YOU HAD
HIDDEN
KAYO THERE...

AND
ABOUT
THIS
GIRL...

ALTHOUGH
THIS IS THE
FIRST TIME
IT'S COME IN
HANDY...

...SO
I CAN GET
DURWARD
AT A
MOMENT'S
NOTICE

HA
HA
HA!

A CAR
WITH A
COMMON
MAKE AND
COLOR
IN THE
AREA...

...ARE
A LITTLE
DIFFERENT
FROM
EVERYONE
ELSE'S—

MY
STANDARDS
FOR
CHOOSING
A CAR...

...I
"BORROWED"
IT RIGHT
BEFORE
COMING
OVER.

...KAYO
WAS
TAKEN
OUT OF
MY
RANGE.

THAT
WAS
THE
DAY...

I FIRST
CONTACTED
THEM ON
MARCH 3.

EVEN
THOUGH
KAYO WAS
ABSENT
FROM
SCHOOL,
YOU ACTED
NORMAL...

BECAUSE
AS SOON
AS I TOLD
YOU ABOUT
THEM, YOU
ACTED,
DIDN'T
YOU?

IT
WOULDN'T
BEEN BETTER
FOR ME IF
YOU'D KNOWN
NOTHING
ABOUT
THEM.

WHEN I
LOOK BACK,
I TOLD YOU
A LITTLE
TOO MUCH
ABOUT THE
CHILDREN'S
WELFARE
CENTER.

AND FOR
YOU TO
REALIZE
THAT KAYO
WAS THE
POTENTIAL
TARGET OF
A KID-
NAPPER...

...YOU
MUST
HAVE
ASTOUNDING
INSIGHT.

IT'S
UNBELIEV-
ABLE.

...DON'T
YOU?

...MY
OTHER
"TARGET"
WAS...

...YOU ALSO
PROBABLY
REALIZED
WHO...

BUT...

...WHICH
IS WHY HE
SET UP A
CONVER-
SATION WITH
YOU WHEN
YOU WERE
ALL ALONE,
YES?

HE'S
A KIND
LAD...

I KNEW
YOU WERE
ACQUAINTED
WITH JUN
SHIRATORI.

IN
KAYO'S
CASE...

...I
THOUGHT
IT WAS
JUST A
COIN-
CIDE-
NCE.

I THOUGHT
I SHOULD
REACT AS
A TEACHER
TO YOUR
TENACITY.

SO I
SHIFTED TO
A POSTURE
OF BACKING
YOU UP.

YOU REALLY
HAD ME
FOOLED
WITH YOUR
PERFORM-
ANCE.

OH
YES.

*I'M AN
IDIOT...*









SO HE PLANTED
PORNOGRAPHIC
HOMOSEXUAL
MAGAZINES IN
HIS SURROGATE
SUSPECT'S—
YUUKI-SAN'S—
ROOM.

FOR
EXAMPLE,
YUUKI-
SAN
KNEW
MORIMOTO
HAD A
BOY?

BUT
AFTER
THAT, IT'S
LIKELY HE
RAN INTO
SOME
TROUBLE.



HE'S THE
ONE WHO TOLD
THE FATHER
ABOUT AYO
NEGANISHI,
WHO THEN TOLD
YUUKI-SAN
ABOUT HER...

...AS
"JUN
SABU-
TANI'S
DAD."

...YUUKI-
SAN'S
FATHER
...

HE
REFERRED
TO...



...IT WAS SO OBVIOUS.



*NO WONDER HIS WORDS
CARRIED SO MUCH WEIGHT.*





...MUST
HAVE BEEN A
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT
SCENE!

...THE LIST
SERIOUSLY

...SO I
DIDN'T
TAKE...

IT'S JUST
THAT MOM'S
NAME WAS
ON THERE
AS WELL...

...WAS ON
SANDA-
SAN'S
LIST OF
SUSPECTS
TOO.

BACK IN
2008, THE
NAME "GAKU
YASHIRO"...

SACHIKO
FUJINUMA

GAKU
YASHIRO

...IT'S
OBSI-
CURE.

...ONCE
THOSE
CLOUDS
ARE
REMOVED...

...BUT...

KASHIRO
CHANGED
MY MIND
WITH HIS
TALENT OF
WRONGING
PEOPLE
OVER...

HE GOT
ME TO
RELAX
MY
GUARD.

I HAD SO
MUCH
FAITH IN
KASHIRO
...
...THAT I
REJECTED
ANY
DOUBTS.

JOJO
SHIRATORI

...IS
THE
ONE

THE
KILLER

...RIGHT
HERE
NEXT
TO ME—

YA-
SHIRO.

















**...YOU'VE
SEEN THE
FUTURE.**





...SO
LET ME
JUST
SAY
THIS.

I DON'T
WANT ANY
HARD
FEELINGS...

74 44
JAPAN



...AS BY
NO MEANS
REVENGE.

...BUT
WHAT I'M
ABOUT
TO DO...

YOU'VE
INTER-
FERED
WITH MY
PLANE...



...RESPECT
YOU.

I
TRULY
DO...



...FOR NOT
BEING ABLE
TO SATISFY
MY DESIRES.

I WANT
YOU TO
THINK OF
THIS AS MY
COMPEN-
SATION...





AND MY
RECOM-
PENSE...

...IS THIS
CHANCE TO,
FOR MY OWN
SAKE AND
BY MY OWN
HAND...

...PEACE
FOR THIS
TOWN.

YOU'VE
WON...

SATO-
RU.

ISN'T
THAT
WHAT YOU
WANTED?

...KILL...

...YOU.

YA-
SHIRO!

UNTIL
I SEE
YOU GET
TAKEN
DOWN
WITH MY
OWN
EYES...

YOU
GO TO
HELL!

...I'M
NOT...

...
GÖNNA
DIE!!

THAT'S
WHAT THEY
CALL AIMING
TOO HIGH.



I'M
GOING
TO
LEAVE
THIS
TOWN.



SO
IT'LL BE
A HAPPY
ENDING
FOR BOTH
OF US.

RIGHT...

...SA-
TORU?



AH...





EXCITED, GRABBED FIRST / EYES—



OUR EYES
OFTEN
MET WHEN
I LOOKED
UP...



EVERY-
ONE...



MA...











I FIGURED THIS WOULD HAPPEN SOONER OR LATER.





SHINYA KUROKAWA



#32: The Spider's Thread, October 1971 – April 1987





STORY: BROTHERHOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MY PARENTS
WERE OFTEN
CALLED TO
COME TO THE
SCHOOL.



MY
BROTHER
TWO YEARS
OLDER THAN
ME, HAD
HAD VIOLENT
TENDENCIES
SINCE HE
WAS A
YOUNG CHILD.

THEY
WERE IL-
EQUIPPED
TO DEAL
WITH MY
BROTHER'S
ANYMORE.

I BELIEVE
THAT WAS ONE
FACTOR THAT
CONTRIBUTED
TO HIS
SELFISHNESS.

OUR
PARENTS
WERE
BOTH WELD-
BANNED
AND HAD
BEEN
RAISED IN
HEALTHY
FAMILIES.





...AND
BORED
ON ME.

MY
PARENTS
EXPECTED
GREAT
THINGS...

...I WOULD
ROUTINELY
GET
THE TOP
GRADES
OF MY
CLASS.

THOUGH
THEY HAD
GIVEN UP
ON MY
BROTHER...



...HE BECAME
VIOLENT
TOWARD ME.

AS THEY
INTERFERED
LESS AND
LESS IN MY
BROTHER'S
BUSINESS...



...SINCE
MY
PARENTS
NO
LONGER
HAD ANY
USE
FOR MY
BROTHER...

EVEN AS
A CHILD,
I UNDER-
STOOD...

BUT I
ALWAYS
REMAINED
STONE
COLD.

...HE NEEDED
SOMETHING TO
COMPENSATE
FOR THAT.
SOMETHING
THAT WOULD
FILL THE
HOLE IN
HIS HEART.



BRING
THAT GIRL
OVER
HERE.

BAKID.



...BUT
HE FIRST
INVITED ME
TO BECOME
HIS
ACCOMPLICE

...WHEN
I WAS
IN FIFTH
GRADE.

I DON'T
KNOW
WHEN MY
BROTHER'S
"BAD HABIT"
BEGAN...



THE GIRL
ON THE
RIGHT.



...MY
BROTHER
SAID HE
WAS USELESS.

WHEN I
FAILED
THE FIRST
TIME...



...HE
BOUGHT
ME A
JUICE
FOR MY
EFFORTS.

...HE
NOT ONLY
DIDN'T
HIT ME...

BUT WHEN I
SUCCEEDED
IN LURING
ONE INTO
OUR BARR...

...TO
MOLESTING
A GIRL
ONCE EVERY
MONTH
OR SO.



MY BROTHER'S
"COMPEN-
SATION" WAS
SHIFTED FROM
BEATING THE
HELL OUT OF
ME ON A DAILY
BASIS...

...AND I
BECAME
MORE
AND MORE
TALENTED
AT LURING
GIRLS.



THAT
WORKED
OUT WELL
FOR ME...

...I
WOULD
GET
THEM TO
LOWER
THEIR
GUARD.



BY
TALKING
TO THEM
ABOUT
THINGS
THEY
WERE
INTER-
ESTED
IN...



I WOULD
TARGET
GIRLS
WHO WERE
ALONE.



...AND
REMEMBERED
TO KEEP
A STOCK OF
MULTIPLE
POTENTIAL
TARGETS

...SO I HAD
ALWAYS
RESEARCH-
ING...



SCOUTING
OUT ONE
AFTER
ANOTHER
WAS
DIFFICULT...

IT WAS ALSO MY
JOB TO FOLLOW
UP BY BRINGING
THE GIRLS
INTO SCHOOL OR
STEPPING THEM
FROM CRYING



I DID
A GOOD
JOB
WITH THE
"LITTLE-
CHIEF."

...BUT I WANTED
TO AVOID GETTING
IN TROUBLE
SINCE, AFTER
ALL, HE WAS
THE PRINCIPAL
OFFENDER AND
HAD FORCED
ME TO DO IT.



I DIDN'T
CARE IF MY
BROTHER
GOT CAUGHT
AND PUT ON
TRIAL...

IT
SEEMS
...

THEY
THOUGHT
MY
BROTHER
WAS
RESPON-
SIBLE.

...BUT MY
PARENTS
NEVER
QUES-
TIONED
ME
ABOUT IT.

...SO I
REPORTED
TO
THEFT AT
THAT...

IT
INVOLVED
A GOOD
DEAL OF
EXPENSE
...



...BUT IT DID
THE TRICK
OF KEEPING
THEM QUIET.



I KNOW
THE THINGS
I BOUGHT
COULDN'T FILL
THE HOLE IN
EACH GIRL'S
HEART...

AND THINGS
WENT
ACCORDING
TO PLAN.



...MY
BROTHER'S
FATHER'S
SERGEANT.



... I DIDN'T
CARE FOR
THE FACT
THAT I HAD
BECOME...

BOOK COMPLETE SERIES OF JAPANESE LITERATURE



...TO THE
FANCIES
WORK BY
FALLOUSURE
ALLEGORICAL.

I REFER,
OF
COURSE
...

...I READ
A SHORT
STORY
CALLED
"THE
SPIDER'S
THREAD."

AROUND
THAT
TIME...

BECAUSE OF
THAT SINGLE
ACT OF
BENEVOLENCE,
BLUDNA GAVE
KANDATA A
CHANCE.

...HIS
SAVING
THE LIFE
OF A
SPIDER.

IT'S ABOUT
KANDATA,
A FRIENDLY
SINNER IN LIFE
WHO WENT TO
HELL AFTER
HIS DEATH. THE
ONLY GOOD
DEED HE'D EVER
DONE...

...KANDATA
SAID, "THIS
IS MY
THREAD"...

...AND
KICKED
THEM
OFF
ONE BY
ONE.

WHEN
OTHER
DEAD
SINNERS
STARTED TO
CLIMB BE-
HIND HIM...

...AND
KANDATA
BEGAN TO
CLIMB UP
TOWARD
PARADISE.

BLUDNA
LOWERED
A
SPIDER'S
THREAD
DOWN
INTO
HELL...

...AND
KANDORI
HIMSELF
PLUNGED
BACK TO
HELL ONCE
AGAIN.



THEN THE
THREAD
BROKE...

...AND
RELAXED
AGAIN.



BUDDHA
SAID, "OK,
MORCILLAGE
AGAIN"...



EVEN SO,
BUDDHA'S
SITUATION
OF KANDORI
WOULDN'T
HAVE
CHANGED,
WOULD IT?

WHAT IF THE
THREAD HAD
SNAPPED AT
KANDORI'S
FEET?



I LOVED THE
STORY, AND
IT GAVE ME A
LOT TO THINK
ABOUT.

I WAS IN
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL
WHEN I
READ IT.

WHAT WOULD BUDDHA HAVE DONE THEN?



...SLIDE
OFF
WITH HIS
INDOOR
AND
OUTDOOR
SHOES.

HE SAID
THE
BELLING
IN HIS
CLASS...



...A FIRST-
GRADER
WAS CRYING
BY THE
ENTRANCE.

WAS
LEAVING
SCHOOL
ONE DAY
IN FIRST
GRADE...



...TO SAY
ANYTHING.

I WASN'T
BRAVE
ENOUGH...

IF YOU'D HAD
SOMETHING, THEY
WOULDN'T HAVE HIT YOU
AND TAKEN YOUR
BAGS AWAY!

THAT'S NOT
BRAVE.



...THE
FEELING
OF "NOT
DIVING
IN"...

AT THOSE
MOMENTS
...

...
COURAGE.



EVEN THE
STRONGEST
GUY...

...SOMETIMES
GO THROUGH
HARDSHIPS

THAT'LL
BE A BIT
BIG ON
YOU...



I'LL
GIVE YOU
THOSE.

BEAR
THEM
MORE.

...BUT TO
MYSELF.

I
WASN'T
SAVING
THAT
ANYONE
LIVE TO
THE
KID...

MY ACT OF
DIVING DIDN'T
REALLY MEAN
ANYTHING AT
THE TIME...



...BECAUSE
I KNEW
THERE WAS
ANOTHER
PUP
WAITING
FOR ME AT
HOME.

I GAVE
UP MY
OUTDOOR
SHOES...

I ONLY
THOUGHT
I DID
IT ON A
HORN AT
THE TIME.



...BUT LATER ON,
I REALIZED THE
ACT WAS
A SORT OF
COMPENSATORY
REWARD
INSTIGATED BY A
REPPRESSED
FEELING.

BUT THEN
PROBABLY HAD
A GOOD IDEA OF
WHAT KANDATA
WOULD DO,
DIDN'T HE?

IF THAT'S
THE CASE,
THEN WASN'T
DANGLING THE
THREAD INTO
HELL REALLY
JUST DONE
ON A HORN?

WHEN
I WAS
ALONE,
I WOULD
THINK
AGAIN.



AFTER THAT, DID KANDATA LOOK
UP TO THE SKY EVERY DAY?
OR DID HE BECOME KINDER TO
OTHER PEOPLE, EVEN IN HELL?



...AND
DUMPED
THE
HAMSTERS
INTO IT.



WHEN I
GOT HOME,
I FILLED UP
AN EMPTY
JAR WITH
WATER...

...AFTER
DINNER, I
RETURNED
TO MY
ROOM...

THREE
HOURS
LATER...



...BY
THE
SIGHT
BEFORE
ME.



...AND I
WAS
CAPTI-
VATED...

...KEEPING
HIS HEAD
ABOVE THE
WATER...

THERE
WAS ONE
HAMSTER...

...USING
THE
BODIES OF
THE OTHER
FLOATING,
LIFELESS
HAMSTERS.



ZZZ
SOUND EFFECT



TO BE
HONEST,
IT
EXCITED
ME.



IT WAS
MORE
STIMU-
LATING
TO ME...
...THAN THE
STORY
ABOUT
KINGCOTA.

...AND
DECIDED
TO
RAISE IT.



I NAMED
THE
SURVIVOR
"SPICE"...



*I FIGURED IT WOULD HAPPEN
SOONER OR LATER.*

...MY
BROTHER
ORDERED
ME TO
STAY
WATCH

ONE DAY
WHEN I
WAS A
FIRST-
YEAR IN
MIDDLE
SCHOOL...

BUT WHEN
I CAME BACK,
MY BROTHER
WAS TALKING
TO A
NEIGHBOR IN
THE YARD

BUT I HAD
PLACED MYSELF
IN CASE NEXT TO
THE ENTRANCE
AND WENT TO
PLAY OUTSIDE

...AND
CLEAR
OUT HIS
VICTIM

...TO
ALERT MY
BROTHER
IF
ANYONE
CAME
NEAR...

IT
SHOULD
HAVE
BEEN MY
JOB...

BY THAT TIME,
I HAD MADE A
FEW FRIENDS I
WOULD OFTEN
PLAY OUTSIDE
WITH AND SO
FAR MY BROTHER
HAD BEEN NONE
THE WISER

I HAD
BARELY
NO ONE
WOULD
COME
BY

THEN I
WENT
INTO THE
SHED.

た
ろ
う
...
SARA
CALLED

SARA
CATTLED
KOH
KOH

THERE WAS
NOTHING
TO DO BUT
WAIT UNTIL
MY BROTHER
FINISHED
CHATTING.

KOH
KOH
KOH
KOH

HEY...
QUIT
MESSIN'
AROUND.

YOU'RE
KIDDIN',
RIGHT...?

WAKE
UP...!

MY
BROTHER
WAS
STANDING
THERE IN
A STATE
OF PANIC.



THEN HE
TURNED
AROUND AND
SLAMMED HIS
FIST INTO MY
FACE.



...AND
FEARING
DISCOVERY
OF THE GUN,
SCREAMED

...HE
COVERED
HIS
MOUTH
WITH HIS
HANDS.

...BUT
WHERE IS
GAKU?

...HE
COULD
HEAR ONE
ANOTHER
TALKING
OUTSIDE...

I CAN
HEAR THE
HAMSTER...

MY
BROTHER
TOLD
ME...



...IN
HAY.

BOTH MY
BROTHER
AND I
TRIED TO
REVIVE
HER...



WHAT
THE HELL
HAVE YOU
DONE...!?

GAKU...
YOU...

...HE WAS
REFERRING
TO MY
APPEARANCE
IN STANDING
WATCH

AT FIRST, I
THOUGHT...



DEPT. FALCON



...HELP
ME.

GAKU...





...PUT THE
GIRL'S
BODY INTO
A LARGE
OBSCURE
CHEST.

THE TWO
OF US...



...LIKE
IT COULD
ONLY BE A
COFFIN.

THE CHEST
ALREADY
LOOKED...



...AS
SIMPLE
GAMBO
FLAG.

...AND
THEN
WE PUT
BOOKS
ON
TOP...

MY
BROTHER
PUT THE
LID ON
IT...



WE'LL
ONLY KEEP
HER HERE
FOR A LITTLE
WHILE.

IT WON'T
BE A
PROBLEM.

SOMEONE'S
SURE TO
FIND HER
LIKE THIS

NE
GAIN...

...SPICE'S
SMELL OF
SUNFLOWER
SEEDS WAS
GONE.

WHEN I
CAME OUT
OF THE
KITCHEN...



...GONE
WHERE
...?



IT WAS THEN THAT I REALIZED
I'D TAKEN MY BROTHER'S WORDS —
"WHAT THE HELL HAVE YOU DONE...!?" —
THE WRONG WAY.



...WHICH
DIDN'T
DISAPPEAR
EVEN WHEN
HE WENT
OUTSIDE.
WAS NOT
ACTUALLY
REAL...

AND BY
THE TIME I
REALIZED
THAT THE
SPIDER'S
THREAD...



...MY
COURSE
OF
ACTION.

...I'D
DECIDED
ON...





...WAS
A HOT
TOPIC AT
SCHOOL
THE NEXT
DAY.

THE NEWS OF
THE LOCAL
GIRL'S DISAP-
PEARANCE...



SAYED
SHE
JUST GOT
LOST.

I BUT
SHE'S
ALREADY
DEAD.

WAS SHE
KIDNAPPED?

SOAK...

DID YOU
HEAR?

SHE'S
IN THE
CLASS NEXT
TO MY LITTLE
BROTHER'S...

NO WAY

STORY REWRITTEN BY: JERRY MIDDLE SCHOOL



I HAD
TO ACT
FAST.

...WERE
REQUIRED
TO GO HOME
WITH EITHER
A TEACHER,
GUARDIAN,
OR IN A
GROUP.

THAT SAME
DAY, ALL
STUDENTS
FROM
MIDDLE
SCHOOL ON
DOWN...

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図書館



BOOKS FORENSIC MEDICINE POLICE MEDICINE



ADON GUARDIAN GUARDIAN



I WOULD BRING A SPEEDY END TO THIS UNCOMFORTABLE SITUATION.





...THE
POLICE
RULLED OUT
MURDER.

BASED
ON A
FORENSIC
SWEEP...

...COMMIT-
TED BLIND
AFTER
BEING
TORMENTED
BY GUILT.

MY
BROTHER,
THE
MURDERER
OF AN
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL
GIRL...

MY MOTHER
HAD
SHOT
HERSELF
WITH GUN
AND COULD
ONLY DIE.

BUT THE
CASE WAS
CLOSED.





THEY
GOT A
DIVORCE
AND
LEFT
TOWN.

RIGHT
AFTER MY
BROTHER'S
DEATH, MY
PARENTS
SOLD THE
MANION
FOR NEXT TO
NOTHING.

...I WENT
ON TO A
UNIVERSITY
OF
EDUCATION
IN THE
CITY.

MY
MOTHER
AND I
MOVED IN
WITH HER
FATHER.
ASPIRING
TO BE AN
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL
TEACHER...



WILL RETURNING TO HIS HOMETOWN BE THE KEY?

SCENE: SAKU YAMASHIRO



*I HAD AN IMPULSE THAT I'D KEPT
IN CHECK ALL THAT TIME.*



...BECAUSE
SHE HAD A
HAMSTER
WITH HER.



DURING MY
TEACHER
TRAINING
PERIOD, I
HAPPENED
TO SEE A
SECOND-GRADE
GIRL NEAR
MY BOARDING
HOUSE AND
BECAME
INTERESTED...

SHE OFTEN
TALKED
TO HER
FRIENDS
ABOUT THE
ANIMAL THEY
LOVED.

...I BEGAN
MY RESEARCH
IN EARNEST.

SHE
WAS IN
SECOND
GRADE AT
MUKOTO ELEMEN-
TARY.

SHE
WAS AN
ONLY
CHILD.



I BROUGHT
OVER
SOME SUN-
FLOWER
SEEDS,
AND AFTER
BREAKING
THE ICE...

ONE
DAY...



SHE WAS
OFTEN
ALONE SO
SHE COULD
TAKE CARE
OF THE
HAMSTER
NEAR HER
HOME.

IT WAS
SNOWING,
THE FIRST
SNOW OF
THE
SEASON.

...I ASKED
HER TO MEET
ME IN THE
STORAGE
SHED OF A
CONSTRUCTION
COMPANY
NEAR MY
BOARDING
HOUSE.

THANK
YOU!

WOW!

LOOK, I GOT
YOU THOSE
CARDS I
PROMISED
YOU.

IT'S
GONE OUT
THERE,
ISN'T IT?

0014 KATCHIDOM CONSTRUCTION

HEY, ADD-
NEECHAN!

LET'S
PLAY!

ADD-
NEECHAN!

ADD-
CHAN!

ADD-
CHAN!

0015 PP



I TRIED TO LEARN FROM MY FAILURES.



...SHE'D STUDIED CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY AT UNIVERSITY.

APPARENTLY...

...AND WAS A COUNSELLOR AT A HOSPITAL.

SHE WAS TWO YEARS OLDER THAN ME...

...AND SOON BEGAN DATING.

AT THE TIME, I'D BOUGHT OUT HER ADVICE ON STUDENT PROBLEMS AT HOME. WE MET UP A FEW TIMES...

SHE HAD COME IN TO TEACH A WORKSHOP.

I WOULD ALWAYS PREFER HER TO TALK ABOUT IT WHEN WE MET.

IT WAS VERY INTERESTING TO HEAR HER TALK ABOUT CHILD PSYCHOLOGY.

...FOR MY SURVIVAL.

THE INFORMATION WAS USEFUL...



SOMEONE
WHO WOULD
LISTEN TO HER
SERIOUSLY.

IT SEEMS
I WAS A
GOOD
PARTNER
FOR HER.

BUT I REALIZED...



...I HAD
NO REAL
INTEREST
IN HER
WHATSOEVER...

...THAT EVEN
THOUGH
SHE HAD A
WONDERFUL
MIND...

...AND
HELPED ME
LOOK NORMAL
BY BEING BY
MY SIDE...



**...THAT I HAD MY BIG BROTHER
INSIDE ME.**



...And
been missing
since the
22nd of last
month.

I DIDN'T
KNOW THAT
BOTHERED
YOU.

Ah
Ah
Ah!

SORRY
WE ALWAYS GO
TO CASUAL
RESTAURANTS.

STORY BY: KAZUO KANEKO



...A 42-year-
old Shingo
Kagurara, a
teacher at Kono
Elementary
School, which
Kanako-chan
attended.

The
suspect is
caught...

Wah...

The Saitama
Police have
announced the
arrest of a
suspect.

The body of
Kanako Kana-
chan, eight
years old, from
Hakomachi of
I-city, was
found on the
first of this
month.

STORY BY: KAZUO KANEKO



AT
LEAST
NOW...

...THE KIDS
DON'T HAVE TO
BE UNDER A
CURFEW.

WELL...
THAT'S A
RELIEF.

According
to the
police...



HOW
THE TREE
GROWS
ON MY
CAR WERE
BROKEN...

ABOUT
HOW MY
CAR HAD
SUDDENLY
GOTTEN
LOW ON
GAS...

...SHE HAD
SUSPICIONS
ABOUT THAT
DAY

IT
SEEMED
...

IT WAS
DANGEROUS
TO GET
CLOSE TO A
PERCEPTIVE
PERSON
AFTER ALL...

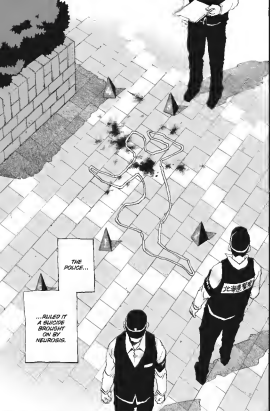
ABOUT THE
WEATHER
IN BLOOMING
AND E-CITY...

ANSWER
ME.

COME
ON...

THERE WAS ONLY ONE "ANSWER."





THE
POLICE...

...CALLED IT
A SUICIDE
BROUGHT
ON BY
HEURISTICS.







NICE
TO MEET
YOU!

MY NAME
IS GAKU
YASHIRO...

PLANNED
CHARACTER DESIGN: A. CHIKASHIGE, ANIMATED
CHARACTER DESIGN: KENJI KAWADA, GAKU YASHIRO & SHUNJI YAMAGUCHI

5年4組
八ノ字

4月6日
（月）

...YOUR
HOMEROOM
TEACHER
STARTING
TODAY!





















SANFORD FLETCHER





*ARE YOU THINKING,
"I CAN'T ALLOW MYSELF TO HAVE FUN"?*



DON'T TAKE IT TOO FAR.



*IF YOU COLLAPSE, YOU'LL LOSE EVERYTHING.
WHY DON'T YOU GO OUT ONCE IN A WHILE?*



KEISEI KENJI WIND STATION















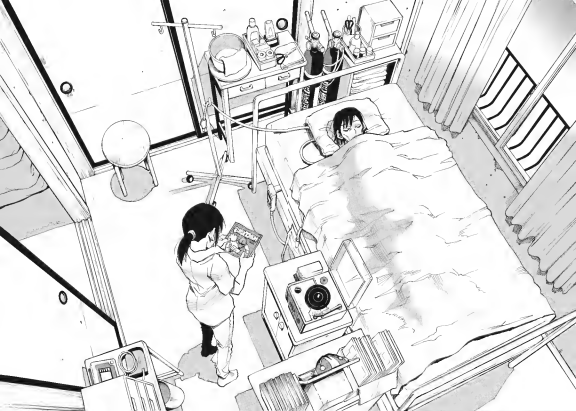
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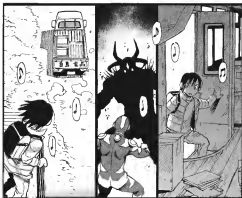
ALLISON FEELS, HOWEVER, THAT IT'S THEIR BOND, IF ANY, THAT'S THE KEY











SHOEN: SHINJIRO YAMAGUCHI







...SA-
TORU.

GOOD
MORN-
ING...





#33: Waking, August 2003

To My Dear Friend Satoru I



Satoru. Maybe you won't need this file in your life from here on out. But I'm writing it in the hope that it will be useful if you ever want to know about what happened to you.

#34: The Locked Door, August 2003 – February 2004



I'm referring specifically to the events of Monday, March 14, 1988.



On that day, you, a fifth-grader, age eleven, followed Miwato Yanagihara to an ice hockey game after school held at Wakaba Gymnasium in the city. I'm the one who gave you the information about her destination.



The driver of the city bus is the last person to clearly remember seeing you. Even now I could kick myself for not going with you that day.

You were found upstream in a local river in the passenger seat of a light van that was two-thirds submerged, front end facing down. The time was around 18:30.



A veterinarian (age thirty) happened to be passing by and spotted the car. She was on her way home from making a house call at a farm a little farther up, so it was pure coincidence that she found you.



When she shined a flashlight into the submerged car, she thought she could see a human head moving, so despite the danger, she jumped into the river. The "head" she saw turned out to be a basketball.



But thanks to her actions, she discovered you in the passenger seat. The woman returned to her car and then came back again with scissors, which she used to cut through your stuck seatbelt (which the police took as evidence for attempted murder), then got you out of there.



At the time, you were in a state of cardiopulmonary arrest with a body temperature of less than 94°F. You were on the fence between life and death when the vet initiated life-saving techniques.



JOHN LARSEN

She made the call from the farm and approximately 20 minutes after your discovery, the police and an emergency medical team arrived on the scene. That's a very rapid response, considering the area.



At the time, the temperature outside was 34°F. The water temperature was 39°F. According to your doctor at the hospital, the low water temperature is what saved your small body. Your oxygen supply was cut off, a condition that results in "brain death," but because you had rapid-onset hypothermia first, your brain went into a state of suspended animation (is what the doctors hypothesize).

And so your fifteen-year-long sleep began.



Sarcasm, ironically, what's happened to you has proven that there was actually no "playing" involved with what you called "playing detective."



Back in fifth grade, I had sympathized with your activities, but this incident was what confirmed to me that there really was a criminal acting behind the scenes.

The "killer" you talked about actually existed.



At the time, the scope of the investigation was broad, with police questioning the car's owner, the vet who found you, teachers, your mother, the staff at the gym, and even contractors, but they couldn't narrow it down to one suspect. It seems the main reason is, they couldn't pin down a motive.



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I tried to tell the police about the "killer," but they disregarded me. One cop even said, "You read too many detective novels."

Making matters worse, my testimony was taken as (made-up) support for my dad, who was fighting an uphill battle defending his client in that criminal case in C-city. As a result, my testimony lost credibility.



SHIRATORI FOODS

But the police did believe me on one point. On that day, I saw Ten Shiratori washing a Bento container by himself at Shiratori Foods. My testimony was the only proof that backed up his alibi. That's thanks to you, Satou.



No one has been arrested for your attempted murder, neither the true culprit nor somebody he framed. This is why I think that is—

Satoru, your presence
derailed the killer's plans.

I'm positive he can be set up.

I swear I'll track him down for you.



I think of pursuing this "killer"
as my duty...

...but maybe i'm writing
this to satisfy myself.



Maybe i'm doing something here that
will only rattle you during your
recovery, after you've fought and
suffered so much in mind and body.



But believe in me, Satoru.

I was truly overjoyed to see you awake after fifteen years. I couldn't stop crying.

Your return makes me happier than anything.

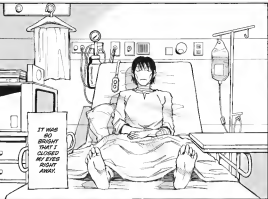


Welcome home, Satoru.

Your friend,
Kenya Kobayashi



*AT FIRST,
EVERYTHING
WAS JUST
WHITE.*



*IT WAS
SO
BRIGHT
THAT I
CLOSED
MY EYES
RIGHT
AWAY.*

*IT SEEMED
LIKE SNOW
FALLING
AROUND ME.*

*THE BACK OF
MY EYELIDS
FLICKERED.*

...WHEN
I FIRST
WOKE UP,

THAT
WAS
ABOUT
SIX
MONTHS
AGO...

A FAMILIAR
SONG WAS
PLAYING.

MY EARS
JOCKED IN
SOON.

...CALLING
MY
NAME.

SATO-
RU...

SATO-
RU...

I OFTEN
HEARD
HOM...

SATO-
RU...

SATO-
RU...

...BUT MY
MOUTH
WOULDN'T
WORK.
MY
VOICE
WOULDN'T
COME
OUT.

I
TRIED TO
ANSWER
HER...



...BY
THE
HEIGHT
OF MY
OWN
BODY.

IN MY
BACK, IT
FELT LIKE
I WAS TIED
TO THE
FLOOR...

I
COULDN'T
MOVE MY
BODY
EITHER.



...
SLEEP
PARALY-
SIS"...

... "OH,
SO
THIS
IS...

I
THOUGHT
...

...AND
THEN I
RETURNED
TO SLEEP.

...I WAS AGAIN
SUDDENLY
ASSAULTED
BY LIGHT AND
SHUT MY EYES
RIGHT AWAY.

THE
NEXT
TIME I
WOKE
UP...

...SA-
TORU. GOOD
MORN-
ING...

THEN I
HEARD
MOM'S
VOICE.

...ALL I
COULD DO TO
RESPOND TO
HER VOICE AT
THAT STAGE
WAS MOVE MY
EYELIDS.

OR I
SHOULD
BARK...

...AND
OPENED
MY
EYES.

I WITH-
STOOD
THE PAIN
AT THE
BACK OF
MY EYE-
BALLS...

...MOM EXPLAINED
THAT I HAD BEEN
ASLEEP FOR A VERY
LONG TIME BECAUSE
OF AN "ACCIDENT"...

...AT
LEAST
MOVE NO
MORE
THAN MY
EYELIDS...

WHEN I
WAS ON THE
VERGE OF
TERROR
AT THE
PROSPECT
OF NEVER
BEING ABLE
TO MOVE...

...AND
THAT THIS
HAD MADE
MY BODY
FUNCTIONS DETERIO-
RATE.

...
POPPED
INTO MY
HEAD.

...THE
WORD
"WRY-
NA"...

I FELT
GRATEFUL
TO NOW...



THANKS
TO HER,
THE FEAR
SOON
LEFT ME.

...IF SHE
SAW MY
HEART
RATE
MONITOR
GO HIGH.

...TO
REASSURE
ME WITH
THOSE
WORDS...



...IT
SEEMS
SHE HAD
ALREADY
PLANNED
AHEAD...

IN
FACT...

...AS A
YOUNG BOY, I
WOULD HOLD
MOM'S HAND,
AND WHEN I
LOOKED UP...



I
REMEM-
BER
THAT...

...OUR
EYES
WOULD
OFTEN
MEET.



SATORU!



YOUR
FATHER...

...IS
GONE...

...BUT I'LL
ALWAYS BE
HERE...

...TO WATCH
OVER YOU.



...FOR
YES/NO
QUESTIONS
AND
ANSWER
QUESTIONS.

SHORTLY
AFTER
I WOKE UP,
HE SAID
HE USE THE
MOVEMENTS
OF MY
EYES...

THERE IS
KIDAMURA-
SENSEI,
THE
ATTENDING
PHYSICIAN.



I'M
THE ONE
WHO ASK
LOTS OF
QUESTIONS
TO ASK.

HE'S
AN OUSE
WHO ASKS
WIKIDUS
QUESTIONS
AND THEN
GIVES
ORDERS.

THAT
SHOULD
GO AWAY
TOO
EVENTU-
ALLY.

YOUR
HEAD
HURTS
TOO,
DOESN'T
IT?

BEAR IT.
PRACTICE
MOVING
YOUR
EYEBALLS.

I
SEE.

DO
YOUR
EYES
HURT?



YOU HAVE
YOUR
MOTHER TO
THANK FOR
THAT.

HOWEVER,
ON THE WHOLE,
THE WEAKENING
OF ALL THE
MUSCLES IN YOUR
BODY HAV'N'T AT
A HOPELESS
LEVEL.

THE CAUSE OF
THAT PAIN IS
STEPPING OF
THE MUSCLES
AROUND THE
EYEBALLS.



I'M GURE
YOU'LL GET
YOUR VOICE
BACK
SOON.

LET'S
CHANGE THE
NUTRITIONAL
TUBE FOR
YOUR THROAT
TO ONE FOR
YOUR NOSE.

?



...BUT THE
PAIN IN MY
EYES AND
HEAD WAS
GONE.

I STILL
COULDN'T
SEE WELL...

I SPENT
A WEEK
EXERCISING
MY EYEBALLS
LIKE HE SAID.

AH!

YES...

THIS IS
SUR-
PRISING.

YOU'D
NEVER GUESS
YOU'VE BEEN
ASLEEP THE
LAST FIFTEEN
YEARS...

...I COULD
SLIGHTLY
MOVE MY
NECK AND
FINGERS.

TWO
WEEKS
AFTER
WAKING
UP...

I SAID
THAT
OUT
LOUD.

TEEN

...
YEAR
...

FE...

D-DID
HE SAY...
FIFTEEN
YEARS?

THEN I DON'T
THINK YOU'LL
HAVE TO WAIT
LONG BEFORE
STARTING
REHAB.

THE
SOONER
THE
BETTER.

OH...

YOU CAN
SPEAK.



FOUR OR FIVE DAYS
AFTER RESUMING
MY SPEECH,
ATAMURA-
SENSEI AND MOM
HAD SOLEMN
EXPRESSIONS
WHEN THEY
CAME TO ASK ME
SOMETHING.



ANSWER
MY NEXT
QUESTION.

I THINK
THIS IS
A GOOD
TIME
FOR IT.

WELL,
SATORU
...



...WHAT'S YOUR
MOST RECENT
MEMORY?

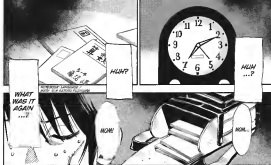
BEFORE
YOU
"FELL
ASLEEP"
...



THE LAST
THING...

...I REMEM-
BER?

OR PUT
IT ANOTHER
WAY—WHAT'S
THE LAST
THING YOU
REMEMBER?



...LOUD
AND
CLEAR.

MOM'S SIGN
OF RELIEF
CAME
THROUGH...

...THE LOOK MOM
SHOT KITSURU-
SENSEI, SHUTTING
DOWN THE
QUESTION HE
WAS ABOUT TO
ASK HER.

I ALSO
CAUGHT
...



THAT IS
WHEN I
REALIZED
THERE
WAS...

...“LAST
SCENE.”

...A BLANK
TIME IN MY
MEMORIES.

SO WHAT
WAS MY
LAST
SCENE...?

...THAT IT
WAS LIKE A
GRIPPING
PAIN IN MY
CHEST.



I FELT
A SENSE
OF LOSS
SO
GREAT...

I WOULD
TRY EVERY
DAY TO
OPEN IT...

...BUT IT
ALWAYS
ENDED
WITH AN
ACHE IN
MY CHEST
AND A
SENSE OF
FAILURE.

THAT
MEMORY

...WAS
BLOCKED
BY AN
UN-
WELDED
LOCKED
DOOR.





...MOM HAD
SPENT FOUR
HOURS OF
EVERY DAY
CARING FOR
MY BODY.



FOR THE
LAST FIFTEEN
YEARS...

SHE TOOK
CARE OF MY
JOINTS
AND MY
MUSCLES.....

...TO
PREPARE
FOR THE
DAY WHEN
I WOULD
UP.



FOR THE
LAST THREE
YEARS,
SHE'D BEEN
USING
AN EMS
DEVICE...

...AND IT'S
REMEMBERABLE."

DR.
ATSUMORI
KEEPS SAYING
"THIS IS ALL
BECAUSE
OF YOUR
MOTHER!"...



I WAS 4'7"
TALL IN FIFTH
GRADE, AND
NOW I'M 5'7".



SATORU.

YOU'VE GOT VISITORS.

...AND I WAS IN
THE MIDDLE OF
WHAT WAS DEEN
BY OUTSIDERS AS
A "MIRACULOUS
REVIVAL
AND RECOVERY"
WHEN...

MY FIVE
SENSES
WERE
RESTORED...



YOU'VE
LOST
WEIGHT,
SATORU!!

YOU
LOOK
GOOD!

SATORU-
KUN!

...TWO MEN
APPEARED.



BUT I DIDN'T
KNOW WHO
THEY WERE
AT FIRST...

HA
HA...

YOU
GOT
OLD!

KENJI
KOBAYASHI
AND
HIROMI
SUGITA.

I WAS SO
HAPPY THAT
THEY CAME
TO SEE ME.

KENJI AND
ARIMA WERE
ESPECIALLY
GOOD FRIENDS
BACK THEN.



BUT
THE
TWO OF
THEM...

I TALKED
WITH THEM
ABOUT
TRIVIAL
THINGS.

WELL,
YOU'RE
AN
ADULT...

KENJI'S
A LAWYER
NOW, AND
ARIMA'S A
DOCTOR
ENTERING.



...BUT I
THINK MOM
AND DAD
WAS STRICT
INSTRUCTIONS.

...KENJI
ESPECIALLY
WANTED TO
ASK ME
SOMETHING...



...BUT IT
SEEMS MOM
WAS TRYING
TO AVOID THE
TOPIC OF MY
FIGHT SO I LET
IT GO.

THERE WERE
A LOT OF
THINGS I
WANTED TO
ASK THEM
TOO...

...BEGAN
AND
ENDED
WITH IDLE
CHATTER.

ONE
FOUR





LOOKING TO MY DEAR FRIEND SAYING I

EVEN
TURNING
MY BODY
OVER AND
SAVING
MY
BEARD...

SHE HAD
BEEN
LYING FOR
MY BEARD
ALONE.



...NOW
HAD FAITH
THAT I
WOULD
WAKE UP
ONE DAY.

FOR THE
FIFTEEN
YEARS I
WAS IN A
COMA...

IT'S OKAY
WITH ME TO
LEAVE IT
FORGOTTEN.

IF IT'S
HAPPY
MORE
WISDOM...
...ALIVE
I DON'T
HAVE TO
REMEMBER.

AND SO
I DEVOTED
MYSELF TO
REHAB. INSTEAD,
THINKING I WAS
DOING IT FOR
MOM'S SAKE.

OR SO I
THOUGHT
UNTIL TWO
MONTHS
AFTER MY
VISIT FROM
KENJI AND
AIKOME...



SATORU!



...WHEN
I STILL
WOEN'T
ABLE TO
STAND...

...AND
SHE
SHOWED
UP.





...BUT SEEING
HER SMILE
AND LOOKING
SO HAPPY
MADE ME SAY...

I'D NEVER
HAD A DECENT
CONVERSATION
WITH HER AS
A GIRL....

...WAS
STANDING
THERE,
HOLDING
HER
NEWBORN
BABY.

THAT
WOMAN
...

...KAYO
HINA-
FLOO...

I KNEW I
WAS BEING
OVERLY
FAMILIAR.

CONGRAT-
ULATIONS,
KAYO!

BUT I WAS
JUST SO
HAPPY TO
SEE HER
FOR SOME
REASON...
...THAT
THE
TEARS
WOULDN'T
STOP.

I WAS
ABLE TO
BECOME
HAPPY...

...BECAUSE
OF THE TIME
I SPENT
WITH YOU,
SATORU.

KAYO
HINA-
BUKI...

...SAD
THAT AND
SMILED.





IT SEEMED
LIKE HIROMI
WANTED TO
TELL ME
SOMETHING.
MAYBE IT WAS
ABOUT YOUR
CHILD.

YEAH...

AH...

YOUR
BABY'S
FATHER IS
HIROMI,
THEN?

I GOT
MARRIED.
MY NAME
IS KAYO
SUZUKA
NOW.

COULD'VE
BEEN...



HIS
NAME IS
MIRAI,
AS IN
"FUTURE."

SPECIAL-
LY FOR A
BOY.

YEAH...

...THE
BABY HAS
HIROMI'S
LONG
EYELASHES.

COME
TO
THINK
OF
IT...



I KNOW,
RIGHT?

MIRAI....

THAT'S
A GOOD
NAME.



...WE
WERE
RELUCTANT.

TO BE
HONEST...

...GATOKU
...

EVEN
THOUGH I MAY
HAVE BEEN
THE CAUSE OF
YOU BEING IN
A COMA...



"IS IT ALL
RIGHT FOR
JUST US TO
BECOME
HAPPY?"...

...WE
WON-
DERED.

...FELT LIKE
WE WERE
LEAVING YOU
BEHIND.



IT
KIND
OF...



THERE'S
NO NEED FOR
YOU TO FEEL
RESPONSIBLE.



KAYO...

MY FATE IS
MY OWN.



...OF
SOMETHING
I WANTED.

...HAS A
RESULT...

I'M
SURE THAT
WHAT'S
BECOME
OF ME...



...BUT
STILL HAVE
A SILVER
TONGUE.

YOU WERE
ASLEEP FOR
FIFTEEN
YEARS...



I'M SURPRISED
AT MYSELF, HOW
WORDS I HADN'T
EVEN FORMED IN
MY HEAD JUST
SLIPPED OUT OF
MY MOUTH.

PH...?
OH...



EVEN SO,
SATORU...

...BUT
NOW...



BEFORE,
I COULD ONLY
IMAGINE BEING
ALONE...

...I'VE...

...GOT A
FAMILY...

...AND
IT WAS
ALL MADE
POSSIBLE
BECAUSE
OF YOU.



THANK
YOU.



...?

"THANK
YOU."

.....

WERE
WE THAT
CLOSE?

AND
HOWARD
CALLED ME
"SATURN."



I CALLED
HER
"KAYO"
FAMILIARLY...
...BUT IT
SEEMED
NATURAL.

...THERE
MUST HAVE
BEEN A
DIFFERENT
SET OF
INTERPRE-
TATIONS THEN
BEFORE.

IN THE
BLANK
TIME
I HAVE
BETWEEN
THEN AND
"FALLING
ASLEEP"...



THE
MORNING
THAT I
LOST MY
RECORDER

I THINK
WITH
KENNEDY
AND
HOWARD
TOO...

...DURING
THAT
TIME?

WHAT
HAD
POWERED...



AND FROM
THE WAY KATO
IS TALKING,
IT DOESN'T
SOUND LIKE
IT WAS
ATTEMPTED
SUICIDE.

THE CAUSE OF
MY COMA WAS
NO "ACCIDENT."
I KNOW THAT
MUCH.



MOM
DOESN'T
WANT ME
TO FIND
OUT ABOUT
THAT...

.....
A
CRIME.



...BECAUSE
OF YOU.

IT WAS
ALL MADE
POSSIBLE...



HAI



WHAT...
DID I
DO...?

BECAUSE
OF ME...



SHE SAID,
"CONSENT-
RELATIONS."

DID SHE...
TELL YOU
ANY-
THING?

YOU KNOW,
"WHAT A
CLUTE BABY!"
JUST THAT.



YEAH.

I SAID
HELLO
TO HER
IN YOUR
ROOM.

...DID
YOU
SEE MY
MOM?

KAYO...



FOR SOME
REASON, MOM
DIDN'T ASK
HER TO KEEP
QUIET ABOUT
SOMETHING
LIKE WITH
KENJI AND
HOROBY.

I-I
SEE.

GOOD
TO
HEAR...

AND
THAT
MADE ME
HAPPY...

SHE
WAS
HAPPY
FOR ME.

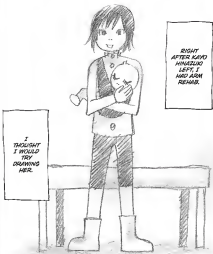


...BUT I
DIDN'T
ASK.

IT FELT
LIKE THAT
WOULD BE
BETRAYING
MOM.

I THOUGHT
THIS WOULD
BE MY
CHANCE TO
ASK ABOUT
WHAT
HAPPENED
BEFORE MY
COMA...





I
THOUGHT
I WOULD
TRY
DRAWING
HER.

RIGHT
AFTER KATO
HUNGLED
LEFT, I
AND ARI
REMAID.

...HELPED ME
REMEMBER
THAT I WANTED
TO BE A MANGA
ARTIST WHEN I
GROW UP. THAT
WAS ONE
REASON.

THE NAME
"MUGA"...

BUT
ALSO...

...THAT
HAD
HELLED
UP
WITHIN
ME.

...I
WANTED
TO CONFORM
...
...THE
STRANGE
SENSEN-
TION...

smash
smash
smash

smash
smash
smash









I
KNOW.



...FOR
FIFTEEN
YEARS...

KEPT
ME SAFE
FROM
OUTSIDE
ENEMIES
...

PRO-
TECTED
MY
BODY...

MOM HAS
PROTECTED
ME ALL
THIS TIME.



...SHE
WANTS
ME
TO
HAVE
PEACE.

...AND
NOW...

BACK
THEN...



...AWAY
FROM
MOM'S
WISH.

...WELL
TAKE
ME...

AND I
KNOW THAT
DELIVING
INTO THE
PAST...

...AND
I JUST
HAVE TO
RESOLVE
IT.

BUT...

...AN
URGE HAS
SPRINGED
UP...

A QUESTION ABOUT MYSELF...

KITAHARA
SENSEI
GAVE ME
A HAND
MIRROR.

WENT
TO SEE
MYSELF?

IT STARTED
WHEN I FIRST
BECAME
ABLE TO
SEE ALMOST
REALLY.

BUT THE
FIRST
THOUGHT
I HAD
WAS...

OF
COURSE
WHAT I
SAW...

... "I LOST
SO MUCH
WEIGHT."

...HAD MY
CURRENT
FACE

NOT, "I'VE GOTTEN OLD!" OR, "THIS IS ME?"







...SO AKIOM
STOPPED THE
BLEEDING...

...BY
PUTTING
WAXLINE
ON THE
WOUND.

BUT HE
DON'T WANT
SENSEI TO
FIND OUT...



BUT
THEY
DON'T.

UM...
KENDU AND
AKIOM...
TOLD ME
ABOUT IT.

OK...

.....?

...
Satisfied?



DID I JUST
CREATE
THEM IN MY
HEAD?

WHAT
IS IT?

THESE
MEMO-
RIES...

BUT I CAN
SEE THEM
LIKE I'M
WATCHING A
MOVIE...

OH,
GOKU I
SEE.

YOU
SURPRISED
ME FOR A
SECOND
THERE!

...DESPITE
CALLING
IT
"NATIONAL
RAILWAYS"
ALL MY
LIFE.

...THE
NAME
FEELS
FAMILIAR
TO ME...



EVEN
THOUGH
"NATIONAL
RAILWAYS"
WAS CHANGED
TO "JAPAN
RAILWAYS"
LESS THAN
A YEAR
BEFORE...

BUT THAT
FEELS
FAMILIAR
TOO.



THIS
SHOULD
BE THE
FIRST
TIME I'VE
SEEN IT.

AND
THIS
"HEISEI
ERA."

...I CAN
WRITE
ALL OF
THEM IN
KANJI.

"KUN-
ITSU."

"TOM-
OYOSU."

"MARCH
OF
LOVE."

"MARCH"

"WE'VE
BUILT
ROAD-
TOM."

"PER-
SEVER-
ANCE."

ASIDE
FROM THAT,
THERE'S MY
VOCABULARY
...

...DID I
LEARN
ALL OF
THAT?

JUST
WHEN
...





BUT
STILL HAVE
A SILVER
TONGUE.

YOU WERE
ASLEEP FOR
FIFTEEN
YEARS...

THAT'S
A VERY
GROWN-UP
THING TO
SAY.



HOW CAN
I DREAM
LIKE THAT?

AND
THERE...
...
THERE'S
THE
DRAWING.



...EASILY
SURPASSING
THE IMAGE
I HAD IN MY
HEAD.

MY HAND
DREW ON
ITS OWN...



...AM
I?

WHAT...

IS THE ANSWER...



...BEHIND THAT LOCKED DOOR?



...BUT...

...IT COULD
ACCOUNT FOR SOME
OF IT...

...AT
LEAST.

THAT
WOULDN'T EXPLAIN
EVERY-
THING...



SLEEP...

...LEARN-
ING?



THAT
WAS IN
THE FALL OF
2000.

AT THAT TIME,
YOU AND YOUR
MOTHER WERE
BOTH LIVING IN
AN APARTMENT
IN CHIBA. SHE
TOOK CARE OF
YOU THERE.

WHEN YOUR
FORMER
DOCTOR
(A BRAIN
PHYSIOLOGIST)
RETIRED...

...I TOOK
OVER YOUR
CASE.



CEREBRAL
FUNCTION HAD
CEASED
AND YOUR BRAIN-
WAVES WERE
FLATLINING.

HOWEVER FOR
THE MOST PART,
YOUR BRAIN STEM,
CENTRAL NERVOUS
SYSTEM, AND
INTERNAL ORGANS
WERE NORMAL.

...AND
REQUIRED
AN
ARTIFICIAL
RESPIR-
ATOR.

...OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS
COMATOSE...

YOU
WERE IN A
PERSISTENT
VEGETATIVE
STATE...

...TO THE POINT WHERE THEY SHOWED YOU IN A "STATE OF SLEEP!"

...WAS THAT EVEN YOUR BRAIN-WAVES HAD REVIVED

...FOUND UNBELIEVABLE...

BUT WHAT I...

YOU SHOWED A MINIMAL STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS.

...YOU SUDDENLY BEGAN BREATHING ON YOUR OWN.

IN THE FALL OF 2001...

...LET ALONE THE COMA SUDDENLY BECOMING A SLEEPING-STATE.

...IN WHICH THE PATIENT WOKE UP AFTER FIFTEEN YEARS IN A COMA...

...I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ANY OTHER CASE...

BUT...

HONESTLY...
...I DON'T KNOW.

MEDICALLY SPEAKING, IS THAT IMPOSSIBLE?

AND EVEN BEFORE THEN, SHE WOULD PUT THE TV, RADIO, AND RECORDS ON FOR YOU TO HEAR.

EVERY DAY, YOUR MOTHER WOULD READ YOU BOOKS IN EVERY GENRE UNDER THE SUN.

FROM THAT POINT, IT WOULD BE TWO YEARS BEFORE YOU WOKE UP.

...WAS CLEANED DURING THIS PERIOD.

THE KNOWLEDGE YOU HAVE THAT SEEMS "UNNATURAL" TO YOU NOW...



NEITHER
AM I.

NO
APOLOGY
NECESS-
SARY.

I'M
SORRY.

I'M STILL
NOT
CONVINCED...



IT'S
LIKE...

...SATURU
HAD BEEN
LOCKED
INSIDE
A TIME
VORTEX...

I HAVE
TO GET HIM
OUT OF
THERE...

BUT...

...YOUR
MOTHER
DID SAY
THIS.



BE
SATISFIED
WITH
THAT.

I KNOW
I SHOULD
BE...

THAT
HOPE WAS
BORNE
FRUIT...

...AND
HERE
YOU
ARE.



...I
WONDERED
IF I'D
MADE A
MISTAKE.

...TO BE
HONEST...

AFTER
KENYA-KUN
AND
HIROMI-KUN
LEFT...

...I JUST
COULDN'T
FORBID
HER TO
SPEAK.

THEN,
WHEN
I SAW
KENYA-
CHIN
AND HER
BABY...

THEY
WEREN'T
ABLE TO
TELL YOU
WHAT THEY
REALLY
WANTED TO
SAY.

...FIFTEEN
YEARS TO
SEE YOU
AWAKE
AGAIN.

NOT
AFTER SHE
WAITED...

...AND
TALK TO
YOU...

...I
WOULD
LOOK
AT YOUR
FACE...

EVERY
DAY...

MOM...



BOOK: TO MY DEAR FRIEND (PART 1)





To My Dear Friend Satoru !!

Here, I'm going to write about what happened while you were in a coma.



On March 14, 1988, after 19:00, you were transported to a local hospital and put on a life support system (artificial respirator). You spent the next month in the ICU before being transferred to the general ward.



The reason you were moved out of the ICU was your situation had "stabilized."

after being in the hospital for three months, you were, to put it crudely, like a human vegetable. Your doctor even proposed discontinuing treatment.

...THE
CHANCE OF
RECOVERY IS
PRACTICALLY
NIL.

ON
THE LEVEL
OF BRAIN
ACTIVITY AS
WELL...

...I
HASN'T
SEEN ANY
SIGNS OF
IMPROVE-
MENT

IN
THREE
MONTHS
...

It was a rural hospital, and they weren't equipped to handle a patient who needed extended care. On top of that, it cost a lot of money to treat you, so I'm sure that was part of the equation.



Your mother adamantly rejected it.

GO TO
HELL.



In July of 1981, the next year, you were transferred to a hospital in Chiba Prefecture that had long-term care facilities.



I was told to keep it a secret, but Hiroshi, Hinaizai, Kaka, Stormy, Pap-chan, and I got more people together and collected money to go toward the cost of your hospitalization. Mitsuo helped one day too. Actually...we're still doing it.



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After being hospitalized for nearly three years, you were moved into an apartment with your mother, the same one as now, and began treatment there. Your mom rented an artificial respirator, and the cost of your treatment went down compared to staying in the hospital. And that's how you stayed for about the next nine years, until 2001...

You suddenly started breathing on your own,
and your brainwaves went into a state of
sleep. But...you didn't wake up. Around this
time, I visited you once. I thought if I
called out to you, maybe you would respond.



As you know, that didn't work.



in the beginning, right after you were hospitalized, the police
questioned your mother too. we were struck by how the doctor
bravely gave your mother the comfort she needed when she
was so tired both physically and mentally.

Hirami frequently went to the hospital to visit you and somewhere along the line decided that he would be a doctor. I became a lawyer, and from now Sawada-san and I are passing the culprit together.



Well, the way I'm writing this seems like I expect your gratitude? (LOL) I don't.

Back then, you were our hero.

Right now, we are where we are because we tried to catch up to you. Because we wanted to fight alongside you.

I wanted you to know that.



...AND READ
BOTH FILES
IN ONE
SITTING.

I LOST
TRACK
OF
TIME...

I CRIED AFTER READING THE SECOND FILE.



...SPENT
SO MANY
OF THEIR
WAKING
HOURS
THINKING
OF ME.

...WAKE
MOM
AND MY
FRIENDS...

I SLEPT
FOR
THE FIRST
FIFTEEN
YEARS...



...TO
NOT BE
ALONE.

...HOW
MAGNI-
FICENT IT
WAS...

FOR
THE FIRST
TIME, I
REALIZED...



THE
CRIMES
KAYO
HINAGAKI
AND ABE
MAGANISHI
WERE
SAVED
FROM...

THE
CRIME
THAT
LED
TO MY
COMA...

...KAYO
WROTE
ABOUT THE
BLANK TIME
THAT I
WANTED TO
KNOW
ABOUT.

IN THE
FIRST
FILE...

WORDCOUNT: 103 BY: JELLY FILLED SLURP

BUT NONE OF IT IS COMING BACK TO ME...



...BUT SOME
OF THEM ARE
SHOTS OF
THINGS FROM
BEFORE MY
BLANK TIME.



THERE ARE
FRAGMENTS
THAT
FLASH IN
MY HEAD...



IT FEELS
LIKE I'M
READING
ABOUT
SOMEONE
ELSE...

I SAVED
KAYO?

I CAN'T
REMEM-
BER...

...ARE
ONLY ONE
PART OF
MY BLANK
TIME.

...BECAUSE
THE
CONTENTS
OF THE
FIRST
FILE...

I
PROBABLY
CAN'T
REMEM-
BER...

NO...

ANYONE
THAT'S
THE WAY IT
IS WITH
AMNESIA,
BUT...

...OR
INSIDE
OF ME!

SOMETHING
THAT EVEN
KENYA
DOESN'T
KNOW...

WHEN DID
I FIRST
FIND OUT
ABOUT THE
EXISTENCE
OF A
CRIMINAL?

WHY DID I
SUDDENLY
START
ACTING
LIKE THAT?

...THAT
UNLOCKS
THE
DOOR?

WHERE
IS THE
KEY...



1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 2680, 26





SO YOUR
SURGERY
IS NEXT
MONTH,
KUMI-
CHAN...

I
SEE...

IT'S A
KIND OF
BLOOD.

I'M
GETTING
BONE
MARROW

...
FROM
MY BIG
SISTER.

...THEY SAY
THAT'LL
MAKE ME
BETTER...



...I'M
SCARED.

BUT...

...AFTER
CANCER-
THERAPY
MADE HER
HAIR FALL
OUT.

MAKING
THE ONLY
CAP IS TO
HIDE HER
HEAD...

A BONE
MARROW
TRANS-
PLANT...

AT SOME
POINT, SHE
STARTED
HANGING
OUT WITH
ME.

...FOR
FIFTEEN
YEARS?

IS IT TRUE
YOU WERE
ASLEEP...

ALUM-CANON
CANNOT
RECALL OLD
14 FOURTH
GRADE
IS A
PATIENT
HERE,
LIKE ME.

SHE IS
ALWAYS
SMILING.

PROBABLY
BECAUSE
SHE DOESN'T
WANT TO
MAKE HER
FAMILY
WORRY.

...THAT THIS
NINE-YEAR-
OLD GIRL IS
UNDERGOING
BONE MARROW
TREATMENT.

EVEN
I CAN
SEE...

COURAGE...



...HOW
TO MUSTER
UP YOUR
COURAGE?

WANT
ME TO
TELL
YOU...



*FOR SOME REASON, WORDS CAME AS IF
BOILING UP FROM THE DEPTHS OF MY MIND.*



...THE
SMILE OF
SOMEONE
WHO'S
DEAR TO
YOU.

YOU
CALL TO
MIND...



...YOU
NEED TO
SMILE
TOO.

OF
COURSE













Translation notes

Common Honorifics

an honorific, Indonesian familiarity or closeness, if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in the manner would constitute an insult

-san The Japanese equivalent of Mr/Ms/Msrs. If a woman calls her policeman, this is the full title honorific. **-sensei** Conveys great respect, may also indicate the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.

-kun Used more often when referring to boys, the indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.

-chan An affectionate/kindness indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls, also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.

-sama A respectful term for nobles, artists, or high-level professionals

Common Slang

While conversation runs frequently daily, an easy outcome for Japanese Yen conversation is ¥100 is 1 USD.

Page 75

Electric Yamaha brand of electric organs especially popular in Japan and other East Asia countries.

Page 77

Shower-on dash The Shower era was from 1916-1949. By this reference, Sotaro means Mr. Shirotsuki is a hardworking, hard-drinking fisher who's rough around the edges but has a hard heart.

Oji-san The term for "uncle," has also a familiar term for a man, often a neighbor or a friend's father. The female equivalent is *ojo-sa*.

Page 106

"The Kamekame" This instantly recognizable piece of music was written in 1952 by Sotaro Japan and re-created the popular music scene in the early '70s with the resurgence of reggae music. It was the theme song for the 1973 Paul Newman and Robert Redford one-on-one comedy drama, *The Long*.

Ragtime Lively jazz piano (and sometimes banjo) subgenre that marked the height of its popularity in the turn of the twentieth century. The name is supposedly derived from the term "ragged time," a reference to the style's jagged, syncopated rhythms.

Page 142

School on Saturdays In the past, schools in Japan were in session every other Saturday, but only from morning till lunchtime.

Page 158

Wink "Miso" means "Tattoo" in Japanese.

Page 169

Heisei The current era in Japan, which began in 1989 to mark the rule of the new emperor, Akihito, following the death of his father, Hirohito, the emperor of the Shwa era, from 1916-1989.

Page 189

Kanji Chinese characters used in Japanese writing. Children in Japan begin to learn basic Kanji in elementary school and learn more and more advanced characters (and words made from character combinations) in middle and high school.

Page 189

Meinaga The character for "Me" is often used in words associated with Hades, such as Meina (Hades the Greek god) and Meika (the underworld).

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STRANGE, EVERYDAY LIFE

2015.05

...SAYO IS
29
YEARS
OLD
INSTEAD
OF 28



ARE
YOU AN
IDiot?

I THINK A
LOT IF YOU
HAVE ALREADY
NOTICED THIS,
BUT AT THE
BEGINNING OF
THE STORY, MY
AGE WAS 28...



THIS
TIME, I'M
GOING TO
START
WITH AN
APOLOGY

Apology

IN THE
BOOK



YOU'RE
RIGHT?

ISN'T
THAT
WRONG?

I DIDN'T
REALIZE IT
WAS SEVERAL
CENTURIES

...SO IT'S
TOTALLY
MY OWN
MISTAKE.



FROM
THE VERY
BEGINNING
OF THE
SERIALIZED
PUBLICATION,
I HAD
SERVOY'S
BIRTHDAY
WRONG

I'D ALSO
DELIVER
ON THE
YEAR AND
ACCADEMIC
PERIOD
FOR HIS
SERVING.

I'M
SORRY



PLEASE
DON'T
RETURN
SERVOY AS
TEMP AS
COMPLAINTS.

BUT
STILL,
I'M
SORRY

IN OTHER
WORDS,
IT WAS
PART
OF THE
PLAN.

...BUT
IT WAS
PURE
INTENTIONALLY
TO AVOID
SPOILERS.

THE
TABLE OF
CONTENTS
FOR THIS
VOLUME IS
CAREFULLY
WRITTEN TO
AID
READER OF THE
STORY.

ONE
MORE
THING



TECHNOLOGY
PT.2



I USED UP
TWO PAGES
INTRODUCING
SERVOY TO THE

SORRY.

AND
SO

FOR THE
COLLECTED
EDITION
HERE, WE
CAREFULLY
FIXED
THAT
GLITCH

LOWEST
(MISTAKE)

FOR NOW,
I DON'T KNOW
OF ANY
MORE MISTAKES
RELATED TO
THE STORY'S
FUNDAMENTAL
QUALITY.

SORRY.

WELL,
SEE
YOU
THERE

I'LL DO
MY
BEST OF
THEIR'S
NO
WAY TO
APPROXIMATE
NEXT
TIME



...BUT IN
THE
MEANTIME,
THERE
WAS SOME
BLACKBOARD
DATE
WRONG

ERASEDO⁶

KEI SANBE

Translation: Sheldon Brack
Lettering: Abigail Blackman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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First published in Japan in 2015 by KADOKAWA CORPORATION, Tokyo.
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Tokyo through TUTTLE-MORI AGENCY INC., Tokyo.

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Yen Press
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First Yen Press eBook Edition: October 2017

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ISBN 978-0-316-40958-0



